

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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FRUIT AND VEGETABLE INDUSTRY
ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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WEDNESDAY,
OCTOBER 26, 2016

The meeting came to order at 8:00 a.m. in the Potomac V Conference Room of the Hyatt Regency Chrystal City, 2799 Jefferson David Highway, Arlington, Virginia, Beth Knorr, Chair, Presiding.

COMMITTEE ATTENDEES:

BETH ANN KNORR, Chair, Cuyahoga Valley
Countryside Conservancy
ROBERT NOLAN, Vice Chair, Deer Run Farms, LLC
MARK ALLISON, The Cheesecake Factory
CHRISTIE BALCH, Crossroads Community Food
Network
VIRGINIA BARNES, Barnes Farm, LLP
CATHERINE BURNS, Produce Marketing Association
CARLOS CASTANEDA, Castaneda & Sons
HELEN DIETRICH, Ridgeview Orchards
KRISTINE ELLOR, Phillips Mushroom Farms
RICHARD HANAS, A. Duda & Sons, Inc.
MICHAEL JANIS, San Francisco Wholesale Produce
Market
HOLLIE MANIER JOHNSON, Bay Baby Produce
ROLAND McREYNOLDS, Carolina Farm Stewardship
Association
MARK NICHOLSON, Red Jacket Orchards
DANIEL SUTTON, Pismo Oceano Vegetable Exchange
BRUCE TALBOTT, Talbott's Mountain Gold, LLLP
JORGE VAZQUEZ, Latin Specialties, LLC
LUCY WHITTEMORE, WP Distributor, LLC
THOMAS WILLIAMS, Coborn's
DAVID YANDA, Lakeside Foods, Inc.

USDA STAFF:

MELISSA BAILEY, Associate Deputy Administrator

TRICIA KOVACS, Policy Advisor

CHARLES PARROTT, Associate Deputy Director

PAM STANZIANI, Designated Federal Official

C-O-N-T-E-N-T-S

Introduction

Beth Knorr, Chair. 4

Call Meeting to Order

Charles Parrott. 4

Business for the Day

Beth Knorr, Chair. 4

Break for Food Safety Group Meeting. 8

Additional Business

Beth Knorr, Chair. 8

Adjournment

Beth Knorr, Chair.11

P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S

(8:02 a.m.)

MS. KNORR: Good morning, everybody.

If you want to go ahead and take your seats. I think we're going to get started here in just a minute or two.

MR. PARROTT: Okay, good morning everyone. Good morning everyone. Good morning everyone. It's a rowdy bunch.

It's day two, so we'll call this meeting to order. And before I turn it over to, back to your Chair, Beth, I'd like to introduce one of my Associate Deputy Administrators. This is Dr. Melissa Bailey. So she's going to be with us today. And then she's also going to join us on the tour of the rooftop garden. So I wanted you all to know Melissa.

So with that I'll turn it over to Beth, and we'll do the remaining subcommittee work that we were going to do this morning before we break on our tour.

MS. KNORR: Good morning, everybody.

1 So a few bits of business. Those committees who
2 met briefly yesterday, if you haven't done so
3 already, please turn in your rosters and your
4 list of your chair persons and vice-chair persons
5 to Pam, so that she can get that documented.

6 Also she's hoping that each of the
7 groups can begin to think about dates in November
8 or early December to setup the first
9 teleconference of the working groups. So that
10 she can begin to do the research and reach out to
11 anybody that you might need for resources, or
12 anything like that. So if you could get with
13 her, and start talking dates that would be great.

14 So this morning we're going to have a
15 few minutes here. I know that the Food Safety
16 Group is going to be convening. And then we're
17 going to be leaving to visit an urban farm on a
18 rooftop.

19 And Trisha Kovacs from the Secretary's
20 Office of Local and Regional Food, the Know Your
21 Farmer, Know Your Food group's policy advisor,
22 she's going to be joining us on that tour as

1 well. To give us a little bit of an overview of
2 the work that she is doing, and her office is
3 doing. So take advantage of that and ask lots of
4 questions about that.

5 We're going to have about 40 minutes
6 with the Food Safety Group. The Food Safety
7 Group, you're going to have about 40 minutes to
8 talk, and identify your priorities, and that kind
9 of thing. Same thing, make sure that you get the
10 information, your rosters to, Pam.

11 Am I -- oh, the meeting dates. Pam
12 has shared with me that the tentative April
13 meeting dates have already been set for April 4th
14 to 6th. So be certain to mark that on your
15 calendar. It will be here again. And I'm sure
16 that closer to the date she'll be sending out,
17 you know, information on making reservations et
18 cetera, et cetera.

19 Anything else this morning?

20 FEMALE PARTICIPANT: No, so.

21 MS. KNORR: Okay, so if you want to go
22 ahead Food Safety Group and convene. And we need

1 to be in the lobby at 9:00 o'clock. But we'll
2 come together again to I guess to adjourn, to
3 officially adjourn the meeting before we leave
4 for the tour, so.

5 MR. YANDA: Beth, what time do we
6 expect to be back here, 11:30?

7 MS. STANZIANI: Approximately 11:30,
8 yes. I would say anywhere from 11:30 to 12:00.
9 I'm, it's D.C.

10 And just for those who are not meeting
11 for the Food Safety Group, if you wouldn't mind
12 making sure that I have your focus areas.
13 Meaning not just the group, but what you're
14 looking for, looking at in particular to focus in
15 on within that subject area. That would be
16 great.

17 MS. KNORR: Yes, and if anybody has
18 any questions or comments for the good of the
19 cause, I think now would be a good time to ask
20 them. Otherwise we can go ahead and break out
21 into the Food Safety Group.

22 Anything?

1 (No audible response)

2 MS. KNORR: No? Okay, well let's come
3 back here. It is about ten after 8:00, so let's
4 convene back here at 8:40. Okay? Thanks.

5 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter
6 went off the record at 8:09 a.m. and resumed at
7 8:46 a.m.)

8 MS. KNORR: A couple of things before
9 we make our way to the lobby and so on. If you
10 could take a few minutes to look at the roster,
11 and make sure that the information that you have,
12 that's listed there for you is correct. And that
13 Pam has the correct email and phone number for
14 you. That would be very helpful for coordinating
15 the meetings in between now and April.

16 Also if you haven't done so already,
17 you know, start thinking about when you want to
18 meet again as a working group. Pam is really
19 hoping sometime between November and early
20 December that you all can convene with your
21 working groups again.

22 (Off the record comments)

1 MS. KNORR: Yes, the roster should be
2 in your folder on the right side I believe.

3 MALE PARTICIPANT: Just the roster,
4 not contact information.

5 FEMALE PARTICIPANT: No contact
6 information.

7 MS. KNORR: Check out the listing
8 there though, that your, you know, associated
9 with, the right business.

10 FEMALE PARTICIPANT: Oh, yes.

11 MS. KNORR: And just update her on
12 your contact info. You're right there isn't any
13 contact info on there.

14 (Off the record comments)

15 MS. KNORR: All right. I think that's
16 really all the official business that we have
17 before we take off for our field trip. There is
18 information on the rooftop farm that we're going
19 to be visiting in your folder as well. So if you
20 want to take a look at that, you're obviously
21 welcome to do so.

22 But before we leave for our outing, I

1 will accept a motion to officially adjourn our
2 meeting.

3 MR. HANAS: I move, second?

4 MS. KNORR: All right. Did you, if
5 you could state your name for the recorder?

6 (Off the record comments)

7 MS. KNORR: So Rick Hanas first it?

8 MR. McREYNOLDS: I'm sorry, point of
9 order. Did we ever approve minutes from the last
10 meeting?

11 MS. KNORR: No, we did not, but Pam
12 mentioned yesterday that we were going to do that
13 by email.

14 MR. SUTTON: And this doesn't need to
15 be discussed right now, Dan Sutton, but the
16 comment that was made yesterday by the gentleman
17 about this committee supporting USDA's efforts
18 with the EPA, I think needs to be taken up for
19 discussion. Possibly in our next meeting.
20 Because I think that's a valid point that was
21 brought up yesterday, so.

22 MS. KNORR: Okay. Any other comments

1 for the good of the cause before we adjourn?

2 MR. BURNS: Can I add one more?

3 MS. KNORR: Yes.

4 MR. BURNS: So for the Food Safety
5 Working Group, I'm going to save myself an email,
6 the recommendations that we made to the Secretary
7 are in your packet. So all seven are in there.
8 We'll make sure we get an update to see where we
9 are against those, but thank you for that.

10 MS. KNORR: Okay, so we have a motion
11 to adjourn. Do we have a second?

12 MR. ALLISON: Mark Allison.

13 MS. KNORR: Okay. All right, we are
14 officially adjourned. Thank you very much ladies
15 and gentlemen, and see you on the bus.

16 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter
17 went off the record at 8:50 a.m.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

This is to certify that the foregoing transcript

In the matter of: Fruit & Vegetable Advisory Committee

Before: USDA

Date: 10-26-16

Place: Arlington, VA

was duly recorded and accurately transcribed under
my direction; further, that said transcript is a
true and accurate record of the proceedings.

Neal R Gross

Court Reporter

NEAL R. GROSS

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